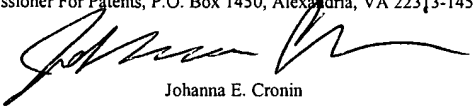


PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Serial No.: Not yet assigned)
)
 Applicant: Laurent et al.)
)
 Filed: Herewith)
)
 For: A CONNECTOR)
)
 Examiner: Not yet assigned)
)
 Art Unit: Not yet assigned)
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 Attorney Docket No.:)
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 Johanna E. Cronin	

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified patent application, kindly amend the claims as published in PCT/NZ2004/000195 as follows: